

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1-49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for exchanging information within a group of users on a wide area network, comprising:

~~defining, in response to interaction with a network client, a defined topic consisting of one or more human-language words;~~

~~testing the defined topic to ensure that it is unique from any additional topics already defined within a memory of the server computer and that all of the human-language words making up the defined topic have a recognized meaning;~~

processing a defined topic comprising one or more human-language words to determine whether it is qualified;

determining, at a host server, if the defined topic is duplicative of pre-existing topics stored within a memory of a server computer;

~~serving the defined topic for discussion to a plurality of remote clients over the wide area network; identified as the defined topic for an integrated information resource~~
if the defined topic is determined to be qualified and not duplicative of the stored pre-existing topics;

receiving information posts responsive to the defined topic from the plurality of remote clients;

integrating the defined topic, the information posts, and a plurality of links to respective different remote information resources each containing information related to the defined topic, to provide the an integrated information resource, the plurality of links being distinct from the information posts;

serving user-interface objects for rating relevance of respective ones of the information posts and of the plurality of links to the defined topic with the integrated information resource to the plurality of remote clients;

receiving user ratings from the plurality of remote clients responsive to the serving of the user-interface objects;

aggregating the user ratings to provide aggregate relevance ratings data; and

publishing the aggregate relevance ratings data with the information posts and with the plurality of links to the plurality of remote clients as indicating user-rated relevance of respective ones of the information posts and of the remote information resources to the defined topic.

51. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 50, further comprising modifying the integrated information resource to prioritize information according to the aggregate relevance ratings data.

52. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 50, further comprising serving the user-interface objects configured for providing the users an option to rate the information posts according to predetermined rating values.

53. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 50, further comprising displaying the information posts in the integrated information resource in a ranked order according to the aggregate relevance ratings data.

54. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 50, further comprising displaying the plurality of links in the integrated information resource in a ranked order according to the aggregate relevance ratings data.

55. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 50, further comprising compiling the aggregate relevance ratings data for information posts identified as submitted by respective ones of the group of users to provide source-associated rating data, wherein each rating in the source-associated rating data is calculated from a portion of the aggregate relevance ratings data pertaining exclusively

to information posts identified as submitted by a different respective one of the group of users.

56. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 55, further comprising ranking the group of users according to each respective one of the group of users' respective rating in the source-associated rating data.

57. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 55, further comprising providing the users an option to receive a rating in the source-associated rating data for each user that has provided information posts to the integrated information resource.

58. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 55, further comprising receiving preference information from the plurality of remote clients, wherein the preference information specifies threshold criteria set by respective ones of the group of users for filtering the information posts according to the source-associated rating data applied to the contributor of each post of the information posts.

59. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 50, further comprising presenting the plurality of links on a menu of a web page.

60. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 59, further comprising presenting the plurality of links grouped in a corresponding plurality of menus of the web page, wherein each of the plurality of menus contains links pertaining to a category of information.

61. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 50, further comprising serving a plurality of additional defined topics for discussion to the plurality of remote clients, ~~the additional defined topics being non-duplicative of the stored pre-existing topics~~ each identified as a defined topic for a respective integrated information resource and selected to be unique from all others of the plurality of additional defined topics;

receiving information posts responsive to the plurality of additional defined topics from the plurality of remote clients;

integrating each of the plurality of additional defined topics, responsive ones of the information posts, and an additional plurality of links to respective different remote information resources each containing information related to a respective one of the plurality of additional defined topics, to provide an additional plurality of integrated information resources, the additional plurality of links being distinct from the information posts;

serving user-interface objects for rating relevance of respective ones of the information posts and of the additional plurality of links to respective ones of the plurality of additional defined topics with the additional plurality of integrated information resources to the plurality of remote clients;

receiving user ratings from the plurality of remote clients ~~via~~ responsive to the serving user-interface objects for rating relevance;

aggregating the user ratings to provide aggregate relevance ratings data; and

publishing the aggregate relevance ratings data to the plurality of remote clients with the information posts and with the plurality of links as indicating user-rated relevance of respective ones of the information posts and of the remote information resources to respective ones of the plurality of additional defined topics.

62. (Previously presented) The method according the Claim 50, further comprising ranking the plurality of links according to a measured use of ones of the plurality of links by ones of the plurality of remote clients.

63. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 62, further comprising performing an action selected from adding a link to the plurality of links, and deleting a link from the plurality of links, according to a ranking determined in the ranking step.

64. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 50, further comprising receiving preference information from the users, wherein the preference information specifies a threshold criteria for filtering the information posts according to the aggregate relevance ratings data.

65. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 64, further comprising serving an interactive tolerance bar for providing the users an option to send the preference information.

66. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 50, further comprising serving the respective different remote information resources each comprising at least one link back to the integrated information resource.

67. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 66, further comprising ranking the plurality of links according to measured activity of the at least one link back on the different remote information resources.

68. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 50, further comprising defining a plurality of additional topics for soliciting additional posts of information from the plurality of remote clients, and serving the plurality of additional topics to the plurality of remote clients.

69. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 68, further comprising receiving additional posts of information from the plurality of remote clients responsive to the serving the plurality of additional topics; and

grouping the additional posts of information in a plurality of topically organized interlinked information resources according to additional aggregate relevance rating data derived from user ratings of relevance from the plurality of remote clients of the additional posts of information to respective ones of the plurality of additional topics, wherein each of the interlinked information resources comprises selected ones of the additional posts of information that the additional aggregate relevance rating data indicates are more relevant to a respective one of the plurality of additional topics identified as a primary topic of the each of the hyperlinked information resources than to other ones of the plurality of additional topics.